

fighting words

**issue 3
summer
1996**

inside:
anti-racist acquitted
cops out of high schools!
anti-klan rally
music reviews
the street zine of anti-racist action



Introduction

Welcome to *Fighting Words* number three, Summer 1996. As you can see, this issue is bigger and better than the last two. That's why it's taken so long to come out. We tried to move up to getting the zine printed, but we couldn't come up with enough chips, so we're back to Kinko's. Hopefully with your help, we can get this thing out on a more timely basis, and maybe even swing enough cash for the super-sized printed magazine format we dreamed about.

Fighting Words!

With the right wing controlling Congress, racism and anti-Semitism are becoming more and more acceptable to more and

more regular working people. It's almost a cliché that in times of economic crisis, racism and anti-Semitism grow. Militias, neo-Nazi skinheads, right wing "Christian" proto-fascists, anti-abortion terrorists, welfare cuts, anti-affirmative action rulings, police harassment and brutality are all growing as the politicians blame poor people, women, and people of color for the problems of our system. They are trying to stuff the holes of a leaky, crumbling house with the bodies of the oppressed. If you've ever worked on a house, you know that if the beams are rotten, you tear it down and build it over again - the right way. No matter how much fresh paint or whatever you cover it up with, it's still

with our brothers and sisters whenever they wanted: we'd all be watching each others backs and doing whatever it takes to make the cops stop. Crooked politicians wouldn't be able to pass any bullshit welfare "reform" bill, cuz we'd be a million strong at their front doors ready to get it on! Nazi-like immigration pigs would be making a "run for the border" with Chicano, Native, Asian, Black and white sisters and brothers fighting side by

come home and battle the 'cops' in their boyfriends. The same goes for gays and lesbians. No matter what you might say, the same system that feeds us racist bullshit pumps lies into
o u r



LOUDER THAN WORDS!

rotten. We think its time for the wrecking crew. On this tip, Anti-Racist Action is working to bring people together to fight for justice and a new world free of racism. The magazine you are holding in your hands is a tool to rebuild that house; to create a whole new world from the bottom up.

We want to make this zine an important

If The Kids Are United...

part of a Twin Cities youth-based anti-racist movement. It's not good enough to just read the news, we have to make the news. No matter how much media, the cops, parents, and politicians try to scare us away from each other with racist propaganda, the Twin Cities already has a bunch of growing multi-racial scenes. There's already a "non-racist" thing going on in the hip-hop, rave, anti-racist skinhead, punk, and metal scenes, but we need to make it an anti-racist thing. We need to make our scenes, our schools, our workplaces, our streets, and our heads "no go areas" for racists. If we can unite around anti-racism, think what we could do. Cops wouldn't be able to fuck

side to tear down the borders. Racist skinhead and militia types would be driven back to the holes they crawled out of, and forced to realize we all got more in common than we have differences (and that the common enemies are the rich motherfuckers who pull the strings for NAFTA, AT&T, Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton). The brothers and sisters on lockdown (a.k.a. the new prison plantations), would get humane treatment with decent food and housing, access to their loved ones, and reading materials that actually told the truth about their histories. We need to build an anti-racist movement in this country where we fight together. ARA is working to help build that move-

They Can Never Be Divided

ment by focusing on two areas of work: anti-Nazi and anti-police brutality organizing. Not that we don't support other important areas. For instance, women and girls make up over half the world's population, but how can we have true equality and justice when women everywhere, from every background, have to struggle against sexism every day? Battling the cops in the streets only to

heads and instills fear and prejudice about people who love members of their same sex. We really can't be for anti-racism without confronting the other pillars that hold up the whole system. Straight up. Besides, women and gays and lesbians have been some of the fiercest fighters for liberation throughout history, and we are just going to lose without them. So as they say - GET USED TO IT!

If you want to find out more about exactly what ARA does in the two areas that we focus on, as well as how you can get hooked up with our Copwatch program, call the hotline at (612) 649-4586 at leave us your name and number. And remember, *action speaks louder than words* - join ARA!

Subscribe!

- \$5- One year subscription
- \$10- Sub plus activist updates
- \$25-Sub, updates, and Copwatch t-shirt!
- \$50-Sub, updates and LiveFrom Death Row, by Mumia Abu-Jamal

What is Anti-Racist Action?

Anti-Racist Action, a youth-based anti-racist organization has consistently and successfully exposed and confronted white supremacist activities in the Twin Cities area. ARA has mobilized hundreds of people in Minneapolis and St. Paul against racist organizing, and helped build an anti-racist ethic in the youth scene so that white supremacist ideas and activities are not tolerated. Anti-Racist Action also recognizes the importance of exposing and confronting the racism that is accepted and encouraged in this country. Racist, patriarchal legislation, and the police, who terrorize and brutalize communities of color by "enforcing the law", are forms of oppression we fight against. Join us!

**Anti-Racist Action • P.O. Box 80239 • Mpls, MN 55408
Hotline Number - (612) 649-4586 Call with tips, info, etc!**

Upcoming Events

**MAY
3-5**

Road Trip in Support of Justice For Candi

Travel with ARA to South Dakota to support the family and friends of Candace Rough Surface, a young Native woman raped and murdered by two white men on the Standing Rock Reservation in 1980. The men are just going to trial now, so we plan on camping out for a few days during the trial. Call 649-4586 for details.

**MAY
25**

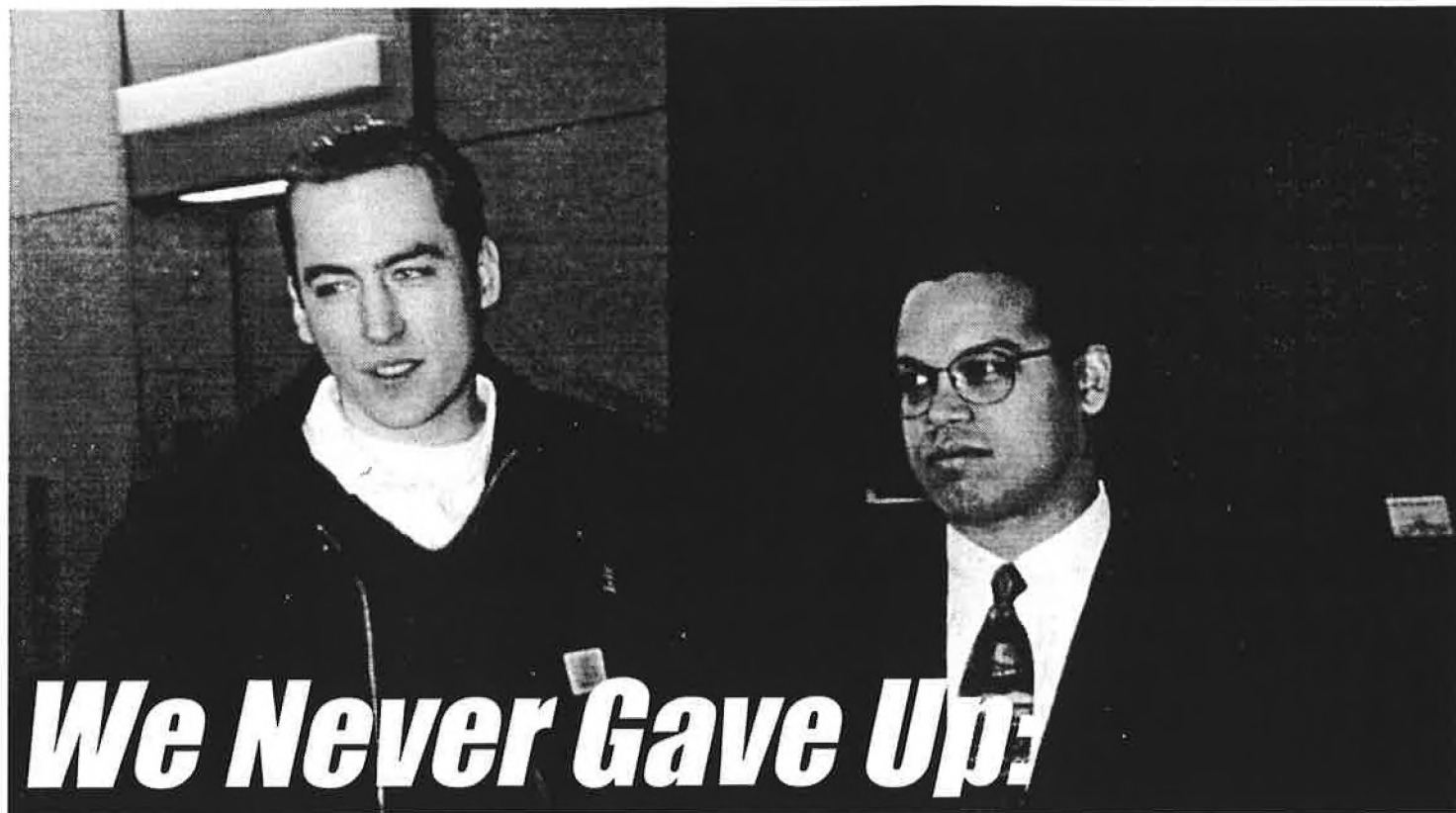
ARA Open Forum-Malcolm X Video

In celebration of his birthday, come check out a video on Malcolm X. Afterwards, join in on a discussion about what we can do as young anti-racists to continue his legacy. **Free.** 2:00 p.m. Saturday, **Uptown Library** (Lake St. and Lagoon Ave.) Second Floor Meeting Room.

JUNE

A.R.A Benefit Ska Show!

Rock steady all night long to music by **The Jinkies**, **The Strikel**, and **Suspect Bill**. All benefits go to programs by ARA like Copwatch, *Fighting Words*, and anti-Nazi work. **All-Ages.** We don't have the venue yet, so keep your eyes and ears open! \$6



We Never Gave Up

anti-racist activist acquitted of felony charges

By Justine

On January 28, 1996, Anti-Racist Action member Kieran Frazier Knutson was found not guilty of two counts of felony assault. Kieran (left, with attorney Keith Ellison of the Legal Rights Center) was charged with the felonies in 1993 for defending himself against a nazi skinhead. After two years of delays, Kieran's trial started on January 8, 1996.

Kieran was accused of attacking Daniel Simmer, a nazi skinhead, who crashed an anti-racist rally on October 23, 1993. In fact, what really happened was a drunk nazi who thought he would be rendezvousing with more of his ilk (the anti-racist rally was called to counter a nazi rally that was scheduled to occur on that same night), thought he could take on a whole crowd of anti-racists by himself. He tried to attack Kieran first. Kieran, who was doing security for the rally, asked Simmer about nazi patches on his jacket. Next Simmer quickly pulled something shiny out of his pocket that Kieran thought was a knife. Kieran instinctively defended himself by hitting Simmer with a flashlight. As Simmer lunged for someone else in the crowd, he was taken down in a flying tackle by the University Cops. Simmer received injuries from this fall that he would later try to blame on Kieran.

Kieran's charges were obviously trumped-up and his prosecution political. As a result, a group of anti-racist activists came together to form the Anti-Fascist Defense Committee. Its function was to publicize the case and hold political forums

Defense lawyer Keith Ellison responded in his closing arguments by saying, "Well, if being opposed to racism is a crime, then you might as well put me in jail too."

and demonstrations. We knew that if we stuck together we would have a chance of impacting Kieran's situation. As a result of the work we did to publicize the case, we received international support, with anti-fascist groups from all over the world following the case and writing letters in support of Kieran to the Hennepin County Prosecutor's Office.

So, on January 8, after a dozen trial delays, Kieran's trial started. The delays were due to the prosecution's persistence in its fight to subpoena the Minnesota Daily, a campus-based newspaper, for the testimony of an ex-reporter and unpublished photos of the rally. The Daily lost on both counts, but Michele Ames, the editor-in-chief of the Daily, refused to hand over the photos. The newspaper was found in contempt of court and fined \$250. The prosecution's eagerness to risk all, including the freedom of the press, to get what they wanted from the Daily, reflects their obsessive desire to prosecute Kieran.

The prosecution's strategy, spearheaded by prosecuting attorney Gemma Graham, was to criminalize Kieran based on his history of activism and dedication to fighting racism. In her closing arguments, Graham said, "He has been dedicated to fighting racism for over ten years"

and "he is a founding member of Anti-Racist Action." Defense lawyer Keith Ellison responded in his closing arguments by saying, "Well, if being

opposed to racism is a crime, then you might as well put me in jail too."

The jury deliberated for three days and on January 28 came back with a verdict of not guilty. The trial proved two things for sure, not only Kieran's innocence, but also that the state's obvious intention was to hide the political prosecution underneath assault charges. They falsely hoped to intimidate the anti-racist movement by using Kieran as an example. But in reality, Anti-Racist Action has only grown in the two years since Kieran's arrest, proving that anti-racist activists have more guts and willingness to struggle with racism in our society than liberal governments, who when given a chance, will spend money to protect nazis.

A big shout-out goes to attorneys Keith X Ellison and Anastacia Belladonna, and the entire Legal Rights Center for mounting an incredible defense! If you need legal help, or can donate some money to this vital service, contact the Legal Rights Center at 337-0030.

news shorts



Oak Park Heights prison locked down; Anti-Racist Action, prison reform activists demonstrate to support prisoners

On March 6th, 1996, over one hundred prisoners at Oak Park Heights prison participated in a work stoppage to protest continual repression and violations of their human and constitutional rights. This work strike was followed by an 11-day lockdown of prisoners. Striking workers were not allowed phone calls, visits, and denied showers. Sent back to work after 11 days, the prisoners were given no concessions whatsoever. Prisoners who refused to return to work have been placed in a new lock down unit.

The strike demands included an end to abusive treatment by guards (beatings, spitting in food, instigating fights among prisoners, and filing false charges against prisoners). They also seek an adequate law library as required by U.S. Supreme Court Precedent, adequate physical recreation facilities, meat that is not outdated, a pay increase from the average 40 cents an hour, adequate ventilation, elimination of excessive medical fees, and a lowering of inflated canteen prices for basic necessities. Other requests include access to cable television channels, and a revisal of the restrictive visitation policy.

In response to the lockdown,

approximately thirty-five people, including many ARA members, demonstrated at Oak Park Heights on March 16th. Carrying banners and signs, the demonstrators marched from the edge of the prison driveway right up to the prison door chanting "No Justice, No Peace", and "End The Lockdown Now!". They were confronted by guards and local police after they attempted to provide a statement to Warden Skon demanding an end to the lockdown and an immediate end to retaliation by the prison against striking prisoners. Other demands included an adequate response to the prisoners grievances, elimination of the new Special Housing Unit (a total control unit) created for those who refused to return to work, and a meeting between the prisoners, the administration, and other organizations the prisoners choose (such as the N.A.A.C.P.).

Although the demonstrators were not able to secure many of the prisoners demands, the demonstration was still a success. This is just the beginning of a prisoners rights movement based on the 'outside', and this demonstration was important in beginning to organize that movement.

A.R.A. march commemorates Kristallnacht Nazis have called for racist demonstrations four years running; none show

The fourth annual anti-fascist march this past November 9 came off strong, as one hundred fierce anti-racists rallied and paraded with torches in a forceful claim to a nazi-free Minneapolis. Anti-Racist Action organized the event to remember Kristallnacht, when in 1938, hate spilled into the streets of Germany and took down Jewish synagogues, businesses and homes in a hail of broken glass. November 9 has become a day of both anti-fascist and fascist actions, especially in Europe.

For us the march also marked the anniversary of a nazi attack on anti-racists and students who were

peacefully counter-demonstrating against white supremacists organizing at the University of Minnesota in 1991. The two years following this attack that sent two anti-racists to the hospital, brought out even larger numbers to resist fascist organizing. In 1995, no neo-nazis dared to show their cowardly faces.

Racism against Jews, against African-Americans, and hatred of all people can flourish when a movement that points to the system and the true causes of oppression is lacking—a movement that also offers the possibility of something different.

Tear down the borders!

Immigrant beat-down exposes racist immigration policy

On Monday, April 1st, the brutal beating of two unarmed, nonresisting Mexican immigrants by Riverside County Sheriffs was caught on videotape. Richard Marquez of AYUDA, a group that tackles issues of human and immigrant rights in the Latino/a communities, commented that "the Riverside County beating incident was an outrageous violation of basic human rights. Unfortunately, this is just one example of the increasing brutality, intimidation, and harassment that immigrants have been suffering since proposition 187 was passed." Marquez continued by

saying that "immigrants are being used as a convenient scapegoat for economic problems which they had no part in creating. It was the Clinton administration's increased militarization of the Border that created the atmosphere that led to Monday's beating. We want to mobilize a massive showing of community support for the right of immigrants to live and work in this country without harassment and intimidation by the INS and law enforcement." A march is planned for early May.

Ex-Black Panther seeks new trial

Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt claims 1972 trial was FBI frame-up

The last time Jeanne Hamilton saw Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt was in 1972, when she and other jurors convicted the former Black Panther of murdering a schoolteacher. Hamilton now believes they sent an innocent man to prison. Pratt contended that he was in Oakland, 400 miles away, the night that Carolyn Olsen, 27, was shot to death in 1968 during a robbery on a Santa Monica tennis court. Pratt is in a Northern California prison and has served 24 years of a life sentence. But, defense attorneys say prosecutors withheld key evidence as part of an FBI frame-up. (Pratt had at first been fingered in the Tate/LaBianca murders-later found to have been committed by followers of Charles

Manson.) While there is disagreement on the fairness of Pratt's trial, there is no dispute that the case is deeply rooted in the political turbulence of the late 1960s. In 1968, Pratt joined the Black Panther Party. In so doing, He became a target of the FBI's COINTEL-PRO (CounterIntelligence Program), aimed at undermining radicals.

Update: Pratt's appeal for a retrial was once again denied on March 28th. As Fred Hampton said: "You can jail a revolutionary, but you can't jail the revolution!"



"Operation Rescue" comes to town

Pro-choice activists demonstrate against fascistic anti-choice terrorists

Members of Anti-Racist Action-Minneapolis, the Women's Justice Brigade, and others mobilized against the presence of Operation Rescue (OR) in the Twin Cities on March 1 and 2. On Friday night, members of OR and Pro-Life Action Ministries were scheduled to attend a speaking engagement by OR National Director Flip Benham at the Calvary Temple Church in St. Louis Park. Over 30 protestors arrived, and while not successful in keeping people from entering the church, A.R.A. and the Brigade let anti-choice fascists in the area know that we will continue to attend their events and harass them wherever and whenever they show their faces in the Twin Cities!

The next morning, after OR had quietly announced a hit on Robbinsdale Clinic, pro-choice folks came out despite the bitter cold. this time, we were confronted not only with the usual propa-

ganda and plastic fetuses, but also with a strong police presence and an injunction which limited chanting by either 'side'. No women were hindered in seeking clinic services that day, and we commanded a strong presence that countered the prayers and "sidewalk counseling" (harassment) of the anti-choicers.



Operation Safe Streets



or operation *white* sheets?

By Katrina and Sean

Last summer Operation Safe Streets started in Minneapolis. Certain areas that is. The Minneapolis Police Department claimed they've always known who the criminals were; they even know where they live. But until August of 1995 the constitution kept them from intimidating and harassing "criminals" until they committed real crimes. Times are changing.

Most of us know cops are racist. We know police procedure in Phillips—a neighborhood predominately populated by People of Color—can be as different as a beat down compared to a friendly warning in comparison to Kenwood, a neighborhood occupied by rich white folks. Now the police are taking this established yet secret practice of racist intimidation and transforming it into their new "crime fighting" program. They are finally allowed to make their racist harassment public. And the freaked out suburbanites, who spend their free time watching cop shows on t.v., congratulate them on finally "getting tough on crime".

Operation Safe Streets, based on a program used in Houston, Texas is basically this: determine problem areas, i.e. poor neighborhoods inhabited by people of color; saturate these areas with extra cops; then give these cops the authority to stop, search, and/or detain folks for anything from looking "suspicious" (although the pigs have refused to define "suspicious") to minor traffic violations. In the two month trial run of this program 2,174 contacts were made, at least 1/3 of which were stopped simply for looking "suspicious". Only 330 of those were actually

Are you willing to give up your constitutional rights for 'safer streets'? This question is being presented across the board, and upper and middle class white folks are saying yes.

booked (and who knows how many of those charges were eventually dropped). That means at least 1,844 completely innocent people were harassed as a result of Operation Safe Streets two month trial. One African-American man who lived in a target area was stopped nine times in the first two weeks of Safe Streets. He was never charged with committing a crime. He actually used to be pro-cop, used to be.

Operation Safe Streets brings up a lot of questions about the constitutionality of police procedure. Are you willing to give up your constitutional rights for "safer streets"? This question is being presented across the board, and upper and middle class white folks are saying yes. But it's not their rights that are being violated. If you don't live, work, or hang out in a targeted neighborhood and you don't fit the profile of a "criminal" this program will not affect you.

What does "safer streets" even mean? Do more cops with increased power to harass you in your neighborhood make you feel safer? If you think that criminals are frightening, the police are no better and often times worse.

In the MPD's strategic plan for safe streets it reads "we believe all citizens have the right to responsive leadership from the police". That's one right I would love to give up.

Media support for Operation Safe Streets is reprehensible. The Minneapolis Star Tribune editorials continue their unques-

tioned support of the Minneapolis police (even if the right wing cops don't think so). The editors of a newspaper with such a "liberal" reputation should be denouncing such a blatant display of racist and classist policy. Instead they continue to give the false impression that this program is working to make the streets safer for all. They use fabricated surveys that show false community support for this horrible program. While the city is dealing with an unprecedented number of police brutality civil suits, the pigs continue to promote division between communities, instilling fear into the hearts of people all over the city. The Star Tribune and the police continue to practice a policy of divide and conquer to undermine any efforts to bring people together in resistance. They attach a negative stigma to neighborhoods made up of people of color, thus making people (white folks) feel afraid and much more willing to implement programs that continue to violate our civil rights.

The mainstream media and police continue to claim that Operation Safe Streets is an effective means of fighting crime. This is a blatant lie! Assistant Deputy Chief Julie Secora claims that the program reduced the number of shots fired in Minneapolis from September of 1994 to September 1995, and according to their statis-

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ara everywhere



Toronto ARA at a demonstration against a nazi speaker

CANADA

TORONTO, ONTARIO

The Toronto ARA crew has already been around a few years and done some excellent anti-racist work. Too good, almost - they've had their phone tapped and been beat down by boneheads (but, of course, the tables have been turned more than a few times, too!). Recently, they pulled off a ska benefit show, and made lots of money to further the anti-racist struggle. They also signed up a bunch of cool kids on their mailing list and hope to hook up with them soon. Toronto ARA has also been helping to get a couple new ARA groups off the ground in Durham (see the update), and St. Catherine's, Ontario.

DURHAM, ONTARIO

Although a new ARA chapter, Durham Anti-Racist Action has already paid their dues!! They held a very successful anti-racist concert on January 26, and over 300 people showed up. They sold a bunch of ARA gear: buttons, patches and T-shirts, as well as anti-racist posters and pamphlets. Unfortunately, two ARA kids were attacked by some racist skinheads with brass knuckles and a pipe. The crowd went out to look for the boneheads and take care of business, but the nazi clowns had already run off. As usual, the cops harassed the ARA kids.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Brew City ARA got started in November '95, and already has a great crew of people. Two comrades made the long trip out to Columbus, Ohio for the Second Annual ARA Network Conference and ended up coming back to Minneapolis for a while to check out Kieran's trial (see the article on page three). The first issue of their newsletter just came out, which is helping to bring new people into the chapter. One of the projects ARA has been working on is to expose the fascist nature of the Bradley Foundation, a local "charity". Milwaukee plans to start its own Copwatch soon.

UNITED STATES



Detroit and Flint, Michigan Anti-Racist Action at Columbus anti-Klan rally

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Detroit Anti-Racist Action came out in full force at the second ARA Network Conference and action on January 17. Although they are just starting to come up, they have already done some excellent work. They visited the home of a young woman attacked by fascists to lend support and see how they could help. A rally is planned to protest the attack.

On March 1st, Detroit ARA helped to do anti-nazi patrol at a heavy metal show where one of the bands had been threatened by fascists. (Detroit is home to Resistance Records and Magazine, a slick nazi music zine and record distribution operation that combines heavy metal music with racist politics.)

On other fronts, ARA made an appearance at the International Women's Day fair at United Auto Worker's local 600. Some ARA kids also attended the NAACP conference in Louisville, KY to take part in a "Youth in Action" workshop. **Keep up the good work!**

FLINT, MICHIGAN

Flint ARA was formed in November when some anti-racists learned that a local record store was selling nazi music and Resistance magazine. They organized a protest at the store, and within two weeks the racist music and 'zines were off the shelves! Flint also went to the January 17 Governor's "State of the State" address to protest welfare cuts, financial aid cutbacks, and for tenant rights. In the crowd of 200, along with ARA, were MeCha, Unions, Active Transformation, and Michigan Education Association, among others. Currently, they are working on starting regular meetings at the East Side Community Center, which they hope will put them in touch with a larger base of people. They are also planning to have regular movies and discussions.

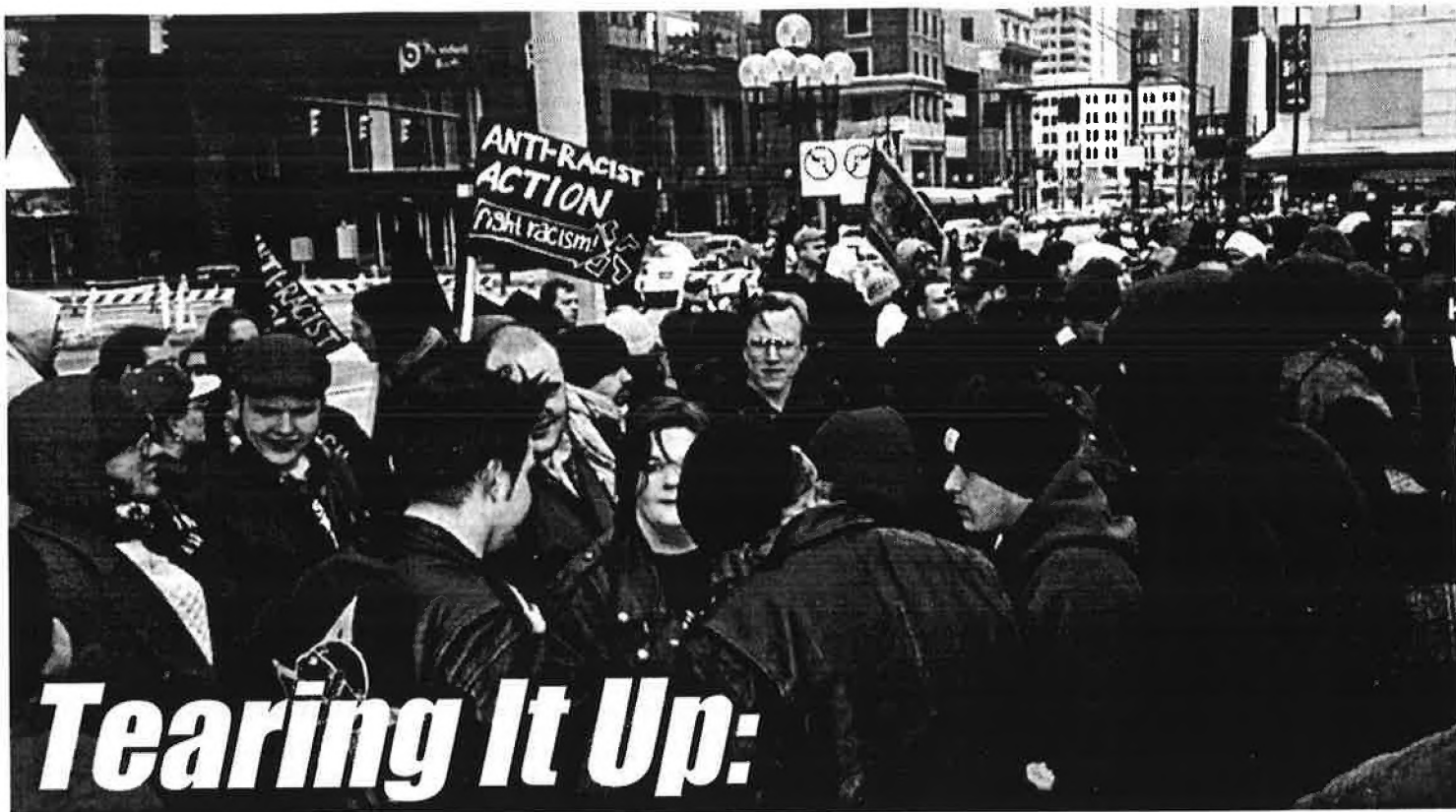
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Columbus ARA has been pretty active lately. A lot of their work focuses on national outreach and support for ARA. Last October they hosted the Second Annual Anti-Racist Action Network conference. They have already begun early plans for the Third conference this year, on October 18-20, 1996.

ARA News, the Columbus chapter's zine, has grown quickly, they now publish about every three to four months. They printed 10,000 of the last issue and mailed it to their mailing list (then) of about 5,600. The rest get distributed in bulk; at music shows, tables, etc. They plan on printing 13,000 of the next issue.

They went on tour with The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, and set up and

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Tearing It Up:

ara network fights the klan in columbus, ohio

By Chris

The day is January 6th and the temperature in Columbus, Ohio is below freezing. On this day the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan are scheduled to have a rally on the capitol front steps. These steps are common ground for the Kluckers, because they have had rallies here for the past three years. The original day for this particular rally was on January 16th, Martin Luther King Day, but due to public outrage and disgust, the city of Columbus required the Klan to change the date of the rally.

The anti-klan was organized by Columbus ARA in coalition with other groups. Several other ARAs mobilized from around the continent to fight the Klan. But just like the past three years, the capitol was surrounded by fences and barricades accompanied by over 200 police officers. These 'pens' are obviously used for the protection of the Klowns and for easy control of righteously angry anti-racist demonstrators.

Before the rally, ARA Network agreed on a plan to encourage other anti-racist protesters to stay out of the pens. Why should *we* be the ones searched and fenced in, not the Klan? Maybe if we had been more organized, this would have worked better, but people ended up going in just to get near the Klan. Incidentally, the Klowns were seen by members of Minneapolis ARA and Milwaukee ARA driving into the capitol. The boneheads displayed a few 'seek-help' salutes which were answered with a FUCK YOU. The Klown driving was so worked up that he forgot he was dri-

ving a car and slammed into the car in front of him. HA-HA!

At the start of the rally most of the protesters stayed outside of the pen. Nobody went inside until the Klowns showed up on the steps. From this writers view, the only thing accomplished inside the pens was some taunting and shouting accompanied by a sore throat. In other words a lot of hot air was wasted. The Klowns gave their usual speech of how every person of color is to blame for all their troubles. The Klan even had the gall to sing 'happy birthday' to Martin and mimic Martin's speech "I HAD A DREAM." From the view of this reporter I witnessed a group of drunk-like rednecks shouting a bunch of stupid shit while being protected by the State.

These rednecks were shouting to an audience that was there to crush them. Except for one misguided soul that showed up to support the KKKlowns. Unfortunately for the supporter, he was beat down by some angry protesters (I bet he'll think twice before coming to another anti-klan rally!) When the supporter refused to leave, the protestors escorted him to an ambulance.

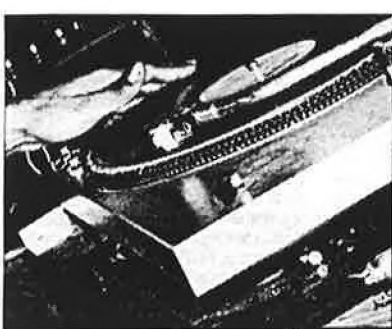
Towards the end, most of the protesters headed to the exit where the Klowns were expected to be leaving. Approximately 200 people took the street and were confronted by police in riot gear. Unfortunately, at the same time the Klan was leaving out another exit unprotected by the cops. One person was arrested for punching a horse ridden by a pig. Others were arrested later the

next week for assaulting the Klan's sole supporter in the pen. The pigs used video footage from a news station to identify the people beating the nazi. Once again the media goes to the aid of the state. The state may have more than one way to get us, but we have not yet begun to experiment in ways to retaliate. We need to support those who are snagged by the cops during anti-racist demonstrations, if we are really going to attack the racists wherever they are, and smash racist organizing for real.

ARA NETWORK CONFERENCE

ARA groups and individuals from Toronto, Milwaukee, Detroit, Flint, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, New York City, Columbus, St. Louis, and elsewhere met in Columbus, Ohio for the first official action/meeting of the Anti-Racist Action Network. The ARA Network was formed in October, 1995 to organize against growing international racist and fascist organizing, and will work to coordinate anti-racist actions, develop strategy, and defend victims of racist violence and state repression. Fascist groups like the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and Resistance Records/Magazine are targeting the Midwest for recruiting through rallies and concerts. ARA is going to be in their faces every chance we get. We are a serious (and seriously fun!) network of Anti-Racist Action groups. If you want information on what to do to kick the Klan and nazi skins out of your area, or how to start up your own ARA chapter, write us and we'll hook you up with some info (see the intro page for our address).

reviews



Goodie M.o.B. Soul Food

Coming out of Southwest Atlanta (the SWATZ), The Goodie M.o.B. Crew has to be one of the tightest, most political hip hop groups to come out since Paris, The Coup, and even Public Enemy. Produced by Organized Noise (the crew that produced Outkast's last CD), *Soul Food* comes across as a heaping helping of revolution and uplifting vibes. The beginning track *Free*, sets the tone for hard-hitting music that knows its roots and can use lyrics to change consciousness. Goodie M.o.B. stands for The Good Die Mostly Over Bullshit ("take one 'O' away and it'll let you know that God is Every Man of Blackness"), and when *Free* kicks

"Lord it's so hard livin this life
a constant struggle each and every day
Some wonder why I'd rather die, than to
continue livin this way"

you know you're in for a serious ride.

You probably already peeped the tracks *Cell Therapy* on The Box or *Soul Food* on 89.9 KMOJ, but as usual some of the best ones get overlooked by radio shows. When I bumped the cut *Live at the O.M.N.I.* the first few times, tears welled up in my eyes. But these weren't sad tears. These were the kind that you get when you see your brother being beaten down by the pigs time and time again and can't do a damn thing about it. The kind that make you clench your fist and look hard into the cold, steel-blue eyes of oppression. And fight back.

"One million niggaz inside...
You can't break me even though you try
One million niggaz inside...
even though you hit me with everything you got
One million niggaz inside...
I still found truth even though you lied
One million niggaz inside...
when the rest are running on instinct"

Coming out roughly the same time as the Million Man March in Washington, D.C., this song couldn't be better timed. At a point when the African-American prison population is over half a million, O.M.N.I. can stand for many things, but the theme of Black people uniting and overthrowing the oppressor runs all the way through this album. If you haven't checked out this CD yet, do it soon. *Soul Food* fills you up with mad knowledge. Listen to *Live at the O.M.N.I.* Maybe once we all clench our fists we can finally bring this fucked-up racist system crashing down. (Jean-Marc)

Tribe 8 Roadkill Cafe E.P.

Roadkill Cafe is the four-song predecessor to the forthcoming album by this San Francisco-based queercore

band. All new songs include *Wrong Bathroom*, about what it means to be a girl who can pass for a guy. Also, there's a cover of Golden Earring's *Radar Love*. Tribe 8 is well known for being one of the best bands you'll ever see live, so their recorded works probably best serve as reminders of the last time you saw them slicing up dildos on stage. Their raging dyke antics even got the attention of Luther Campbell (a.k.a. Luke Skywalker of Florida's 2 Live Crew), who, when he heard they took off their shirts during their live shows, invited them up to the taping of his pay-per-view "Lukes Peep Show". It seems that Luke was a little freaked out when Tribe 8 asked him to "show and tell" after having done it themselves. (I guess after Tribe 8 pulled out the dildos they were packing, accompanied with a big-ass knife, Luke didn't want to take any chances!) On Luke's yacht filled with naked and half-naked women, singer Lynn Breedlove was hardly shocked when she declared "Live nude girls? I can get that at home. I'll tell you what I'd pay to see...dead clothed boys!" Definitely buy this E.P., but before you listen, check out Tribe 8 at First Avenue on April 27th. You won't be disappointed! (Gigi)

KRS-One Krs One

KRS-One is one of the most political hip-hopppers around. His views on the government, cops, and the KKK keep ringing in my head. So what the fuck is wrong with America? Ask KRS-One and find out your answer.

His new self-titled album KRS-One hit me with a little less of an impact as his Boogie Down Productions album *Edu-tainment* but hit never the less. With the hard slamming lyrics that can change a mind or even a world. Listening to the album I was re-affirmed that KRS is "the rap king of lyrical syllable". Although KRS's style has changed since 1986 his views are constantly updated.

Another one of my favorite albums from the teacher was *Return of the Boom Bap*. *Black Cop* and *Sound of the Police* made me want to take my fists out of my pockets and put a hole in a pigs face. (Emerson)

Fugees The Score

"Kid's bumpin Fugee-la wear the mask..." Fuckin dope, eh? *The Score*, the latest LP from The Fugee's, comin straight from the refugee camp, has got to be the best hip-hop album to come out in a long time. Lauryn's voice styles keep you smiling, and takes you back a few decades with her version of Roberta Flack's *Killing Me Softly*. The vibe on this

album is positive, political, and inspirational, advising us to "kill the mother-fucker who makin my bills high", and take on the ones who oppress us. Not a bad idea. The talent contributed to make this masterpiece comes from Wycleff's guitar abilities accompanied with drums, keyboards, bass, and samples of their own shit. Pras throws down some phat lyrics backed up by Lauryn's beautiful singing voice. Besides The Roots, I don't know of a rap group this good that plays their own instruments with such sweet style. (Chris)

The Oppressed Anti-Fascist Oi!

Oi! is the Raw and catchy 'street punk' music that was big among working class punks and skinheads throughout Britain in the 80s. Oi! bands speak to kids at the bottom of society, pulling no punches in laying out the reality of their lives: violence, a few laughs, extremist politics, and more violence. Oi! was the 'gangsta rap' of its time and place.

Of all the Oi! bands, The Oppressed were always the ones most down with chasing nazi scum out of the Oi! and skinhead scene. Their lead singer, Roddy Moreno founded SHARP (Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice) over in Britain.

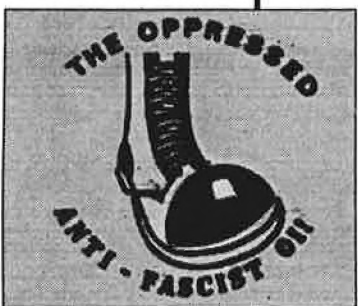
Recently, there has been a small flurry of new releases and re-releases from The Oppressed. Among these are *We Can Do Anything*, a full length CD of covers of classic Oi!; 5-4-3-2-1, a single of football (soccer) chant-inspired tunes; *Fuck Fascism*, A brand new single that benefits SHARP and Anti-Fascist Action (Anti-Fascist Action is ARAs equivalent over in the U.K.); and the Anti-Fascist Oi! E.P., with four songs of blazing anti-fascist rage. Each song is actually a cover, made over to become an anti-racist anthem. So The Who's *Substitute* is redone to kick the knowledge that nazi skins are pawns for the rich. Sham 69's *Borstal Breakout* becomes *Nazi Nightmare*, and Menace's *GLC (Your Full of Shit)*, turns into *BNP (Your Full of Shit)*. The BNP, the British Nationalist Party, is the main sewer for neo-nazis in the U.K.

It's nice to see The Oppressed still kickin' it, and even nicer to see that their politics have only gotten fiercer. Nice one lads!

Want to review a new tape, video, or show you saw? Send us your review! (It should be 50 to 100 words max.)



TRIBE 8



The Score



students fight cops in high schools

By A South High Student

At South High there are two types of cops—the hall monitors and the actual pigs in uniform. Hall monitors do most of the work—enforcing all the petty rules imposed on students: no wearing of hats, headbands or head scarves, no walking in halls without a pass, no running, no eating upstairs (during lunch the stairs are blocked off by hall monitors), no leaving the building without a pass, no studying anywhere outside of class except for the dimly lit study area in the auditorium, and not standing around talking (even if it's between classes).

South High is one of the more lenient high schools. At Washburn they do hall sweeps, which means that once the bell rings, teachers shut and lock their doors. Any students left in the halls are prey to detention-happy school officials. Even if you wanted to go to class—tough! Off to the principal's office you go.

Most of the hall monitors are unfriendly, if not entirely hostile in their exchanges with students. Indeed, these "exchanges" are usually outright hollered commands: "Get to class!" "Take off that hat!" "Where are you supposed to be?" "Keep moving!" Students scatter at the sight of a red-faced walkie-talkie-wielding hall monitor. Most students are so dazed by the lack of sunlight and fresh air to put up much of a fight. However, almost everyone manages to deliberately slow down and shoot evil looks at whoever's yelling at them.

Now for the boys and girls in blue. They

"Pigs hassle students out of pure boredom; the biggest kick cops ever get is ticketing underage smokers during lunch."

aren't required to enforce school rules, only laws broken in school. However, there are many incidents in which they have gone above and beyond their call of duty. In one incident, a young woman was waiting for her mother to pick her up when she noticed some cops hassling a student about a hall pass. Upon hearing them make a comment that the student "looked like he was in a gang," she voiced her protest at their unfair judgement. Concern for the male student getting to class was obviously small as the cops immediately forgot about him and focused on the young woman. They began to question her about her presence in the hall without a pass and she was hassled about her questioning their actions.

From this initial confrontation stemmed a larger argument. The young woman continued to question their actions and insist that they stop being so disrespectful to her. Instead of calming down and de-escalating the situation, which they get paid to do, they did just the opposite. By taunting and bullying her, they made the situation explosive.

The young woman eventually decided to remove herself from the situation and wait outside. On the way out she made a remark over her shoulder using the word "fuck." At this point

the pigs were squealing for an excuse to bust her. They physically stopped her at the door and choked her while

putting her into handcuffs. These two men, both at least six feet tall, felt the need to use violent force in order to arrest a 5'3" young woman.

They then paraded her, crying and obviously traumatized, through the school in handcuffs to the office. She was then suspended, even though she hadn't really broken any rules.

Certainly one of the most infuriating aspects of the whole thing is that the same cops involved in this assault *still* work in the school! No disciplinary action was taken, despite a student walkout 300 to 400 strong and a student group formed in response to the attack. One of the cops involved is also a police sniper, which is disconcerting.

Why these brutes are allowed to feel welcome in high schools is a good question. They carry firearms that could potentially be used against students. By contrast, students are not allowed to carry weapons of any kind. If there was ever a conflict in school involving firearms, could a cop be trusted to deal with it in a safe and controlled way?

These cops are trained for the street and they don't go through any special training to prepare them for a high school environment. They

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Operation Safe Streets *continued from page 5*

tics that is correct. However, these same statistics show that 757 MORE shots were fired in the first nine months of 1995 compared to the first nine months of 1994. That is an increase of 23%! And this is deemed as a success? Ironically, the homicide rate for 1995 rose to record proportions.

Operation Safe Streets claims to have recovered 174 guns during their pilot program. The 1992 gun buyback program obtained over 6,100 guns. This proves that appealing to people peacefully accomplishes more than harassing them. By manipulating their statistics they try to show a reduction in crime though the truth speaks to the contrary.

Another "claim to fame" by the police is the 2174 "contacts" that were made as a result of Operation

Safe Streets. The term "contact" is just another way of saying that we are now treating people like wild animals—tagging them, attempting to control them, and predisposing them for crime. This is creating guilty people out of the innocent and causing more crime and adding to tension rather than reducing it.

When asked whether or not innocent people are harassed by this program, a south Minneapolis police officer claimed "No, it doesn't happen". The 1844 INNOCENT people detained by the police would probably differ in opinion. Assistant Deputy Chief Julie Secora claims that "average" citizens gave few complaints, though she failed to define "average". She thought the program was a "huge success", though at the same time she said it was "hard to measure" the true suc-

cess of the program. Once again the hypocrisy and true colors of the Minneapolis Police Department shine through.

If you think Operation Safe Streets is bad, it's just the beginning and it's only getting worse. In California, programs like the LAPD's HAMMER program were implemented a few years ago. Now the pigs have used the inch given to them to take a mile. People that were tagged by programs similar to Operation Safe Streets are now finding more and more of their civil rights being violated. The police have made it illegal for people tagged in these programs to do completely LEGAL things such as carry pagers, cellular phones, glass bottles, baseball bats, and flashlights! Women previously convicted of prostitution cannot sit at bus

stops! If you even think of associating with someone who is tagged, the pigs say that is reason enough for you to be added to their hit list.

The fact that the cops are racist and classist is nothing new. But for them having legal grounds to take away and violate your constitutional rights is. Anti-Racist Action is committed to exposing the police force as the racist and oppressive system it is. ARAs COP-WATCH, a program designed to build an anti-police brutality movement while we also keep the cops in check, goes out every other weekend armed with a video camera and people willing to observe and intervene in police harassment. If you want more information on how to get hooked up with us, Call the ARA hotline at 649-4586.

Cops out of high schools... *continued from page 9*

can't be trusted in the street and they shouldn't be trusted in high schools.

Another reason cops should get out of schools is because they are unnecessary. Pigs hassle students out of pure boredom; the biggest kick cops ever get is ticketing underage smokers during lunch. There are no knife fights, no gang wars, no major laws broken in an average day, and no sexual assaults, unless you count the story about the liaison officer at Roosevelt who sexually assaulted several women.

Most students are somewhat anti-cop. However, the reason pigs are still in school is that some students, and many teachers and parents, feel safer having these thugs watch over students like hawks. People need to be alerted that intimidation tactics are being used to get kids to go to class. Any sort of subversive acts should be encouraged: everything from large-scale student protests to outright verbal attacks and blatant non-compliance.

An alternative to police and hall monitors would be student-run groups responsible for dealing with conflicts. This method of peer mediation—students being responsible for each others' actions—has been proven very effective. When students are given the power to be responsible for their actions, good things can happen.



Columbus ARA Update

...continued from page 6

signed up at 14 Bosstones shows in February and March. We helped to organize the protest against the Klan in Columbus on January 6. We have just begun to mobilize against the Klan recruitment rally in Bryan, Ohio (west of Toledo) Saturday, April 20, 1-3 p.m.

On the local scene, ARA Columbus will hold their Anti-Fest II, all day rock against racism, across from the Ohio State campus on Saturday, May 18.

We're also doing what we can to help the two guys busted and facing long prison terms for their part in the January anti-Klan action. Our "schools" committee has three classroom appearances scheduled in March and April. We have also been contacted by victims of three separate hate incidents (two in our area, one near Cincinnati) for help. We hope to be able to do something to support these folks.

Oak Park Heights Lockdown... *continued from page 8*

and history.

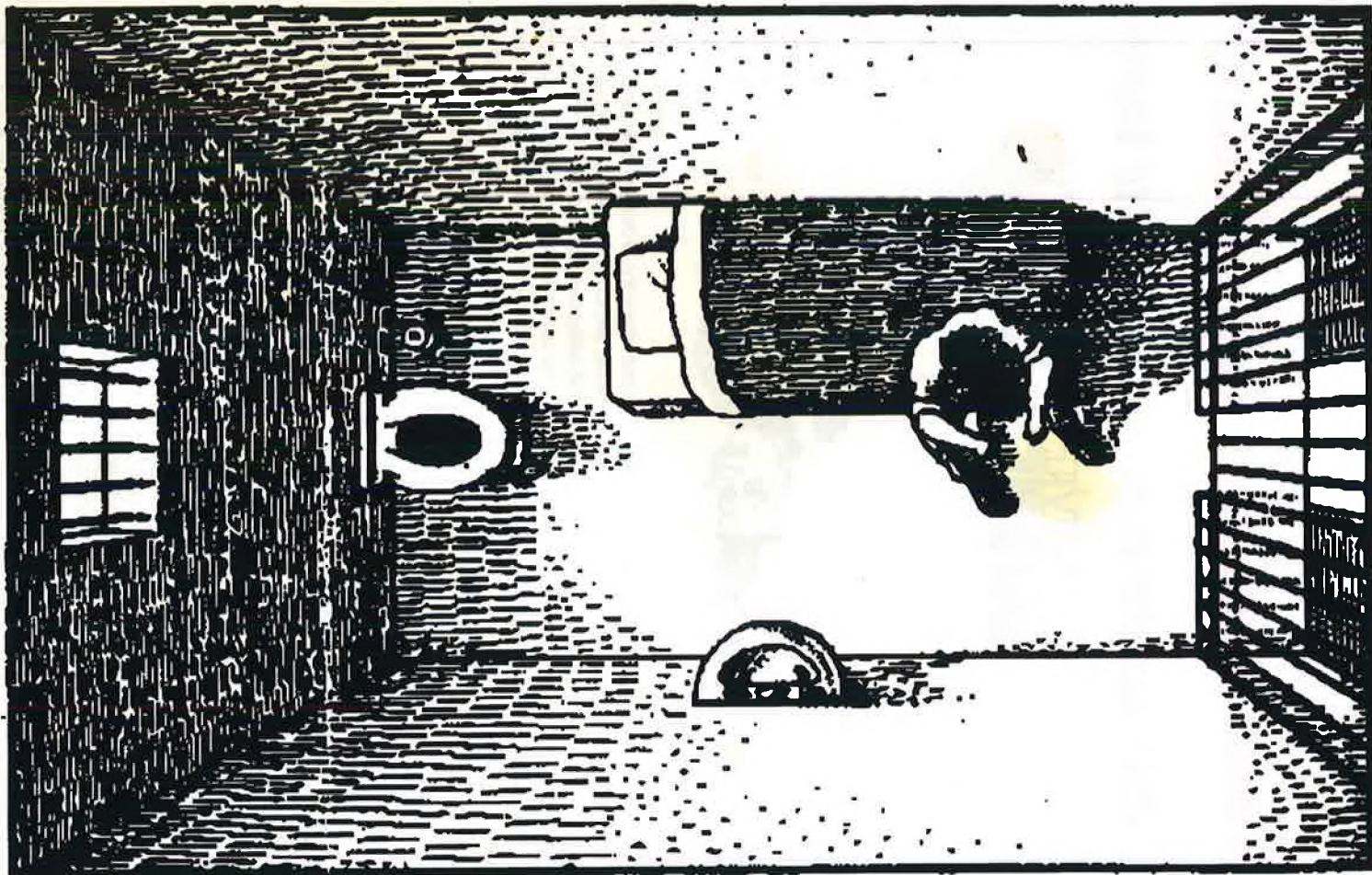
An adequate law library should be provided by the state and federal law books. We need a paralegal to work in it and assist prisoners. A real grievance and filing system by law should be set up so prisoner problems can be addressed, filed, and if need be, taken to some level of litigation. Segregation prisoners should have adequate heat in their cells. The seg. unit is freezing in the winter, and I personally found ice in my cell seven days ago. Segregated prisoners should not have to pay cable channel taxes when they can't

even have a television.

At this point, prisoners aren't being treated fairly as human beings. This revolutionary is asking for support and help in demanding these issues be addressed and changed for our and your betterment, not for a profit for the institution. Stand up and be heard and let them know you won't stand for this treatment on prisoners. Direct where and how our tax dollars are being spent, because somebody's benefitting from this, and it's not the prisoners nor the people, which is you! Power to the people.



Nantambu Kambon (formerly Shannon Bowles) is a 25-year-old prisoner at Oak Park Heights maximum security prison in Oak Park Heights, Minnesota. Serving a 30 and 15-year concurrent sentence after being convicted of two counts of 1st degree murder in the death of Minneapolis Police Officer Jerome Haaf. Nantambu is one of five African American men serving time for the murder. Many in the community believe that the convictions were a set-up, especially since the evidence against Kambon was not overwhelming. For instance, a rap poem detailing brutal and crooked police officers being killed (a fantasy most of us have entertained) was dredged up and used as evidence that Nantambu "had it out for the police". These facts were conveniently manipulated by police, prosecutors, and a mostly white population screaming for blood. After being denied an appeal at the state level, Mr. Kambon is pursuing a writ of habeas corpus on the federal level.



Oak Park Heights: Live From Lockdown

By Nantambu Kambon

Note: This statement was written for the March 16th demonstration at Oak Park Heights prison in protest of the lockdown of striking prisoners.

Revolutionary greetings from myself and the spirits of those who passed before my time. Anyone who hears this should understand that you're fighting against a machine that is controlled by greed and power, yet it is held accountable for its actions when you, the taxpayer, the people, the community demands it. Oak Park Heights is practicing low intensity warfare on its prisoners. The papers say that we are going back to work after an 11 day work strike. Let me say that the prisoners in two units staged a strike on Monday, March 4th for six hours, and then were placed on lock up status by the warden, Eric Skon. This has been a six-hour work strike and an 11-day lock-up by the institution. The grievances of the prisoners have been manipulated by the institution and media. Now we are expected back to work on Monday, March 18 with no concessions by the warden, and the threat of punishment if we continue to demand our human rights.

This institution put out to the media that prisoners are striking back for x-rated sex channels,

"These beat down methods used by these officers must be eliminated and they must be held accountable for harming us: we are still human and bruise and bleed like you free people."

as Jessica Freer, programs manager told a local paper. First, let me say that I've been a hostage here for 32 months, and on Cinemax and HBO, I have never seen any movie rated over PG 13 or R. Don't be mistaken, I have seen x-rated events! An x-rated event was when the guards beat one man senseless on September 3, 1994 for asking for exercise time. They burned him on his back with cigarettes and pulled his genitals. That was true violence and torture, and that I'm allowed to view! On Friday, March 1st, a one legged white male was beaten so badly by officers around 10:30 a.m. that by 11:00 he had attempted suicide by hanging. Now, these events I witnessed, but it wasn't on cable! These beat down methods used by these officers must be eliminated and they must be held accountable for harming us: we are still human and bruise and bleed like you free people.

The taking of our contact visiting privileges on the pretense of two smuggling incidents by

visitors is ridiculous. Assuming that my family and friends are potential carriers of narcotics without proof is absurd. Convicting

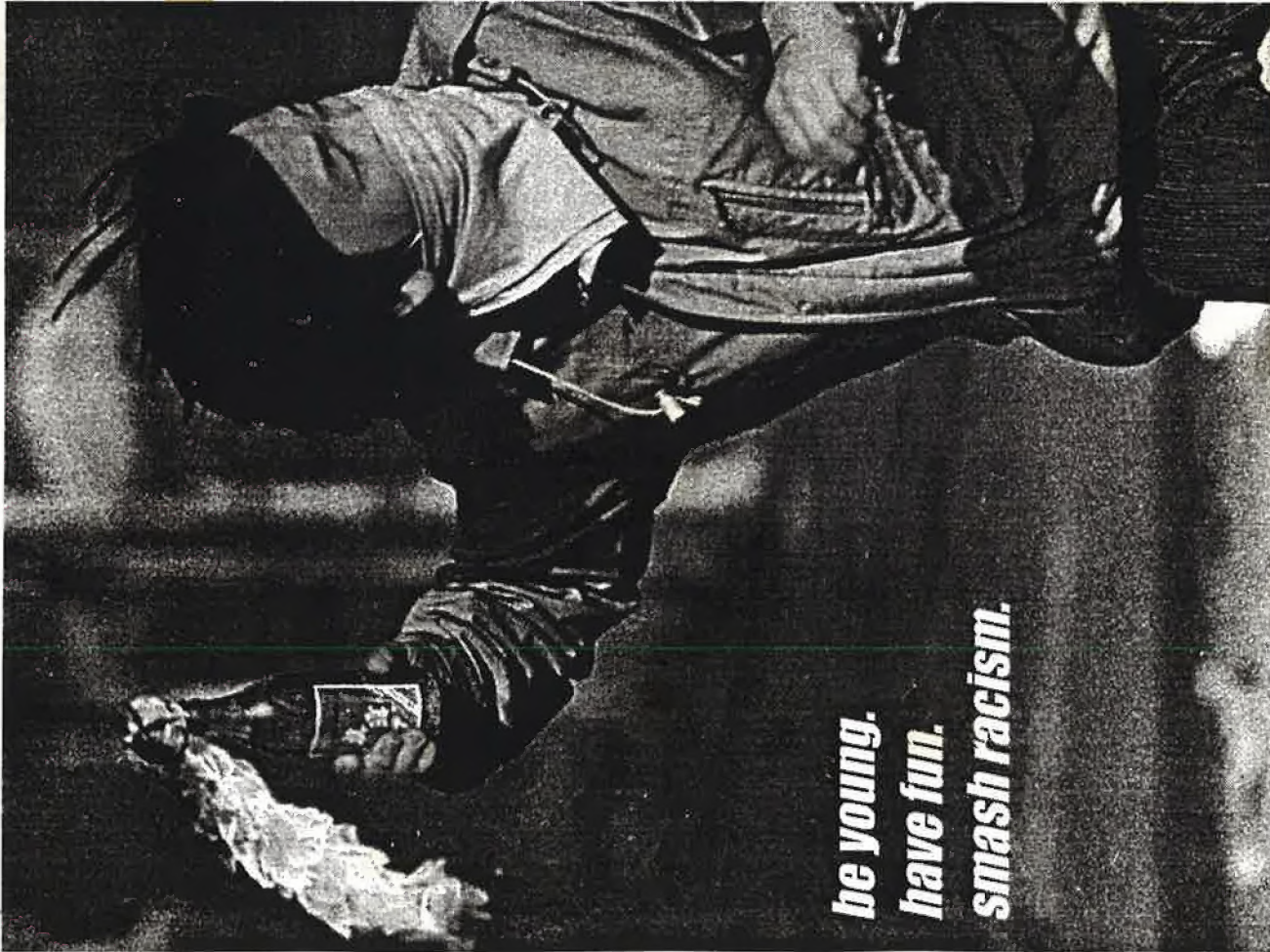
and punishing them by restrictions on visiting is a sentence by the MN Department of Corrections (D.O.C.).

Who's the law protecting? Definitely not the community, or you! Only your voice can reverse this wrong. They aren't the law. The people are!!

They convinced you to allow them to take prisoner Pell Grants, yet nationally it is recognized that 90 percent of those released with a college degree never return to prison again. We must make the D.O.C. provide adequate schooling and college programs to battle the illiteracy and recidivism rate. Why would anyone not allow a person to read? By Oak Park Heights policy, only ten books, magazines, and religious materials in total are allowed in your possession. I have seven books on one religion I need alone. This must stop, for it's definitely not encouraging us to read and learn, and the Western science fiction they provide tells me nothing of my culture

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With special guest columnist Red Anger



**be young.
have fun.
smash racism.**

I'm madder than a tight pair of slacks in a room full of ravers!

Okay, so our man Kieran Knutson was acquitted at his trial January 29, but not before we had all been subjected to three weeks of infuriating blather from a scaly, embittered old lush of a prosecutor bent on winning a conviction in an assault case that was fraught with 'reasonable doubt' from the git-go! Her vicious attacks on progressive politics and obvious disdain for anti-racists made my blood boil. But probably the thing that really got me hoppin' the most was her inference that her bonehead client Dan Simmer's civil rights had somehow been violated...

Jesus Christ in a nightie! We're talking about a nazi skinhead here, folks! These numbskulls' whole ideology is based on violating other people's civil rights...the rights of women to have control of their own bodies, of Blacks and Latinos and all people of color to have genuine equality, and the right of gay and lesbian folks to respect and recognition. And they won't stop at violating civil rights either, oh no, they'll have a go at your basic human rights too, as anyone will tell that's been unfortunate enough to run in to a roving gang of these mythology-crazed hooligans! I don't know about the law of the land in this overgrown boondock state, but in my book, you threw your own civil rights out the window, Mr. Simper, when you sewed on them patches and laced up them boots, in short, when you donned the uniform of

SIMMER DOWN



racist violence, hatred and murder!

I don't believe that Simper is a hapless, nature-loving 'Odinist' for one minute. He went looking for fight that day in October '93. He arrived, he jaunted about above the crowd defiantly, and then he m

Kieran and Co. They tried to 'enlighten' Simmer and failing that, showed him to the stairs! (The stairs later said they remembered seeing him.) / waiting semi-circle of onlookers encouraged him to go away but pride wounded and howling, this nut decided he might still have a go at some innocent college students.

Yes, anti-racists were victorious, both in October '93 and at Kieran's acquittal in January '96, but I'm still hopping-ass mad! I'm mad at Simmer's pathetic bid to hide his true identity behind Pink Floyd and Nordic runes, I'm mad at the state and Gemma (DWI) Graham for pursuing this idiotic case and dragging it out over two years, and I'm mad about all the heartache felt for Kieran, his family, and his friends. And I'm mad because I should be mad, we should all be mad, in fact it's our god-given civil right to be pissed off living in this racist and reactionary banana 'democracy.'

UNTIL NEXT TIME, THIS IS RED ANGER SAYING "NAZI SCUM YOUR TIME HAS COME!"